



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 8**

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July 23, 2007

Ref: 8EPR-N

Fort Carson NEPA Coordinator
Directorate of Environmental Compliance
And Management
1638 Elwell Street Building 6236
Fort Carson, Colorado 80913-4000

RE: Pinon Canyon Transformation FEIS
CEQ# 20070251

To Whom It May Concern:

In accordance with our responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) commented on the Pinon Canyon Transformation draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) on January 3, 2007.

USEPA appreciates the changes made to the FEIS and feels that they will contribute to a better analysis and in some cases a more environmentally-acceptable project. It is because of these changes that we have upgraded our rating on the DEIS document from "2" (Insufficient Information) to "1" (Adequate) on the FEIS. However, EPA still believes this project will experience undetermined environmental impacts as the training frequency increases for the additional brigade combat teams realigned to Fort Carson and training at Pinon Canon Maneuver Site.

It is important that a proactive approach be taken to assure mitigation is available or is taken in advance to address these future impacts. Table 3-24 in the FEIS is a good first step in the development of mitigation measures to reduce these future impacts. EPA would like to see an even stronger mitigation plan implemented that would better address environmental impacts both expected and those that may not be so easily foreseen. Because of these uncertain impacts and how they will be mitigated we are retaining our rating on the environmental impact of the action to EC (Environmental Concerns)

We have enclosed our assessment of your responsiveness to our DEIS comments that were included as Appendix H to the FEIS. We have made additional recommendations there.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (303) 312-6004 or James Hanley at (303) 312-6725.

Sincerely,

/s/ Robin Coursen
for Larry Svoboda
Director, NEPA Program
Ecosystems and Protection Remediation

Enclosure

